

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00491 132137Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 SAJ-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 USIE-00 PRS-01 L-02 INT-05

DODE-00 /077 W

----- 038064

O P 131620Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6573

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 491

FOR EUR AND INR.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, EI

SUBJECT: THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL: SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE SUMMIT

1. THERE ARE DANGERS IN INSTANT ANALYSIS OF THE MOOD  
AND ATTITUDES TOWARD THE DUBLIN SUMMIT, THE FIRST  
"EUROPEAN COUNCIL" MEETING FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW  
FORMAT IN PARIS LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, WE HAVE PICKED UP  
ENOUGH INTERESTING COMMENT TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE (WE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00491 132137Z

THINK) TO RECORD THESE IMPRESSIONS. OTHER EMBASSIES

MAY WELL GET DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS FROM NATIONAL DELEGATIONS.

2. BELGIUM'S TINDEMANS WAS PARTICULARLY ATTUNED TO THE HISTORICAL FACT THAT THIS "EUROPEAN COUNCIL" WAS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE HOPE THAT PREVIOUS "HEADLINE" SUMMITS WOULD GIVE WAY TO MORE ROUTINE, NORMAL WORKING PROCEDURES. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF INFORMAL MEETINGS OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. TINDEMANS COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS NO PRECEDENT IN DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE FOR THIS KIND OF INFORMAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING UNLESS ONE WENT ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA. TINDEMANS SAID (AND WE HAVE HEARD THIS SECOND-HAND FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS) THAT THIS EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING GAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REALLY GOOD SOUNDINGS WITHOUT THE USUAL FORMALITIES OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE. WHAT HE AND OTHERS WERE APPARENTLY REFERRING TO IS WHAT THEY CONSIDER A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE DECISION-MAKING MACHINERY BY AGREEING TO REGULAR MEETINGS OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, A MORE RELAXED AGENDA, AND THE ABSENCE OF THE FEELINGS OF PRESSURE THAT A SUMMIT MUST SUCCEED OR "WHY DID WE CALL ONE IN THE FIRST PLACE?" THE NEW FORMAT WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO TINDEMANS PERSONALLY IN CARRYING OUT HIS MANDATE IN INVESTIGATING CONDITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSARY TO BRING ABOUT EUROPEAN UNITY.

3. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT ALL WENT SWIMMINGLY. THE SUBJECT OF BRITISH RENEGOTIATION WAS AN ISSUE THAT REQUIRED AN URGENT DECISION ON SOME VERY TECHNICAL MATTERS THAT MIGHT BETTER HAVE BEEN HANDLED IN ADVANCE AT A LOWER LEVEL. AS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT POKED ABOUT FOR A COMPROMISE FORMULA THEY WERE TOLD BY THEIR EXPERTS THAT ONE SUCH FORMULA WAS UNWORKABLE. THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO REJECT TWO SUBSEQUENT EXPERTS' FORMULATIONS AS UNDECIPHERABLE, FINALLY RETURNING BASICALLY TO A COMMISSION PROPOSAL. AT ONE POINT THE ONLY TOOLS AVAILABLE TO THE BOYS IN THE BACK ROOM WERE A SLIDE RULE AND A BORROWED POCKET CALCULATOR.

4. SOME PARTICIPANTS WERE PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY ABOUT PM WILSON'S PERFORMANCE. STRONGEST COMMENTS WHICH HAVE REACHED OUR ATTENTION WERE FROM PM DEN UYL OF THE NETHERLANDS. HE GAVE DUTCH REPORTERS A DEEP-BACKGROUND BRIEFING IN WHICH HE SAID THAT HE WAS EMBITTERED BY WILSON'S BEHAVIOR THROUGHOUT THE SUMMIT. DEN UYL CONSIDERED THAT WILSON HAD BEEN "ARROGANT" AND HAD SHOWN A LACK OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00491 132137Z

COURTESY IN FAILING TO VOICE A SINGLE WORD OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS OF EC COLLEAGUES TO MEET HIS PROBLEMS. THIS HAD CAUSED DEN UYL SUCH DISTRESS THAT HE HAD DECLINED TO APPEAR FOR A DUTCH TV CREW THAT HAD COME ESPECIALLY TO SEE HIM. HE REPORTEDLY WAS AFRAID THAT HE COULD NOT KEEP HIS COOL IN A TV INTERVIEW. HE COMMENTED: "IF THAT'S HOW THE BRITISH ARE GOING TO BEHAVE AFTER RENEGOTIATIONS, WE'RE IN FOR A BAD TIME."

5. PM TINDEMANS OF BELGIUM WAS MORE RESTRAINED BUT ALSO FAR FROM PLEASED BY THE BRITISH. HE WAS HEARD TO COMMENT THAT THE SUMMIT HAD WASTED A LOT OF TIME ON THE RENEGOTIATION PROBLEM. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT GISCARD HAD SPOKEN TO TINDEMANS PRIVATELY AND HAD DEPLORED THE LOSS OF VALUABLE TIME. TINDEMANS REFRAINED FROM DIRECT CRITICISM OF BRITISH BEHAVIOR BUT WAS QUITE APPARENTLY NOT HAPPY WITH IT. HE DID SAY THAT IF WILSON RAISES OTHER QUESTIONS AFTER THE REFERENDUM, SUCH AS THE COAL AND STEEL TREATIES, HE WILL LOSE ALL CREDIBILITY. FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD ALSO REFRAINED FROM DIRECT CRITICISM BUT SAID, "BRITAIN, HAVING GONE AS FAR AS IT CAN, MUST NOW DECIDE WHETHER TO STAY IN THE MARKET. WE ARE AT THE END OF THIS\*" FITZGERALD ALSO SAID THAT THE BRITISH HAD COME CLOSE TO "PUSING THEIR LUCK."

6. ALL IN ALL, OUR CONTACTS FELT THE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS SUMMIT WAS THAT THE EUROPEANS FOUND THE POLITICAL WILL TO MEET THE RENEGOTIATION ISSUE, EVEN THOUGH MANY PARTICIPANTS FOUND THE PROBLEMS TEDIOUS. THE WORDS "POLITICAL TRIUMPH" WERE OCCASIONALLY USED. SEVERAL, INCLUDING TINDEMANS, FELT THAT THE HASSLE OVER BRITISH RENEGOTIATIONS WAS SUI GENERIS AND WOULD BE THE KIND OF SUBJECT THAT HAD TO BE DEALT WITH BUT WOULD NEVER ARISE AGAIN.

7. NOT SURPRISINGLY THE WORDS "EUROPEAN COUNCIL" DID NOT BECOME A CATCHWORD DURING THE MEETING. THE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FELT IT WASN'T SEXY ENOUGH TO REPLACE "SUMMIT" AND WAS EASILY CONFUSED WITH A PLETHORA OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT USE EITHER "EUROPEAN" OR "COUNCIL" IN THEIR TITLES.

8. THE IRISH PERFORMANCE: IN THE ROLE AS EC PRESIDENT THE IRISH HAVE BEEN POSITIVE IN THEIR REMARKS TO US ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE SUMMIT. ALMOST EVERYONE PRAISED THE IRISH FOR CARRYING ON WITH A SMILE THROUGH ALL THE DIFFICULTIES. SECURITY WAS GOOD: TIGHT BUT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DUBLIN 00491 132137Z

FRIENDLY AND ONLY SOME JOURNALISTS COMPLAINED THAT IRISH TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS CAME OFF SECOND OR THIRD BEST COMPARED TO PREVIOUS SUMMITS.

9. FINALLY, THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT SENIOR GOI OFFICERS CONTINUE TO EXHIBIT THE POLITICAL WILL TO INFORM US PROMPTLY OF THE RESULTS OF MEETINGS HELD IN DUBLIN. UNDER SECRETARY EAMONN GALLAGHER ALSO SPECIFICALLY INVITED THE US TO CONSULT ON ENERGY MATTERS WITH THE NEW AD HOC HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE THAT WILL BE OVERSEEING EC PREPARATIONS FOR THE PREPCON AND THE MAIN ENERGY CONFERENCE. MOORE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNITY RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DUBLIN00491  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750088-0857  
**From:** DUBLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750355/aaaabxjj.tel  
**Line Count:** 166  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL: SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE SUMMIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EI, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006